

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 SP-02 H-01 INR-10  
INRE-00 PM-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 /046 W  
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O R 111811Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6690  
INFO AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA  
AMCONSUL OPORTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 6020

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3  
TAGS: PINT PO  
SUBJ: EANES KEEPS PRESSURE ON THE SOCIALISTS

REF: LISBON 5894, LISBON 5845, LISBON 5981

SUMMARY: RELATIONS BETWEEN PRESIDENT EANES AND FORMER PRIME  
MINISTER SOARES HAVE NOT IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE THE  
LATTER'S DISMISSAL. THE PRESIDENT HOPES TO USE PRIME  
MINISTER DESIGNATE NOBRE DA COSTA TO PRESS THE SOCIALISTS  
TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN A THIRD CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.  
END SUMMARY.

1. DOWN TO WIRE: EMBOFF MET WITH PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER  
LUIS MARTINS AUG 10 TO DISCUSS NOBRE DA COSTA'S DESIGNATION  
AS PRIME MINISTER. ACCORDING TO MARTINS, IT WAS CLEAR TO  
THE PRESIDENT BY AUGUST 8 THAT THE PARTIES COULD NOT AGREE ON  
A PRIME MINISTERIAL CANDIDATE AND THAT A SPECIFIC INTER-PARTY  
AGREEMENT ON WHICH A THIRD CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT COULD  
BE BASED WAS NOT YET POSSIBLE. ACCORDINGLY, EANES PHONED  
NOBRE DA COSTA IN THE ALGARVE AUGUST 8, DESCRIBED THE  
IMPASSE, AND ASKED IF HE WAS WILLING TO SERVE. NOBRE DA  
COSTA ACCEPTED AUGUST 9 AND THE PRESIDENT INFORMED THE PARTIES  
OF HIS DECISION LATER IN THE DAY IN PREPARATION FOR THE  
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EVENING ANNOUNCEMENT.

2. TO PLEASE SOME OF THE PEOPLE SOME OF THE TIME: EANES  
BELIEVES THE PARTIES ARE WILLING TO GIVE THE  
INDEPENDENT NOBRE DA COSTA A CHANCE AT LEAST TO THE POINT OF  
FORMING A CABINET AND PRESENTING A PROGRAM TO THE LEGISLATIVE  
ASSEMBLY. ACCORDING TO MARTINS, THE PRESIDENT IS BEING

COUNSELED TO PERSUADE NOBRE DA COSTA TO PRESENT A PROGRAM VERY CLOSE TO THE SECOND CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT'S PS/CDS PROGRAM ON THE PREMISE THAT THE SOCIALISTS WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO REJECT. THE PRIME MINISTER DESIGNATE HAS ALREADY BEGUN HIS CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PARTIES, AND THE PRESIDENT HOPES A CABINET CAN BE PUT TOGETHER BY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK.

3. EANES CALLS SOCIALISTS' BLUFF: MARTINS NOTED THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN EANES AND SOARES HAVE NOT IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE THE BROUHAHA SURROUNDING THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER'S DISMISSAL. AS FAR AS EANES IS CONCERNED, SOARES'S ATTITUDE SINCE THE COLLAPSE OF THE PS/CDS ACCORD CONSTITUTES AN INTOLERABLE CHALLENGE TO PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY. MARTINS REPEATED THAT IF SOARES HAD VOLUNTARILY SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION AND ADMITTED THAT THE SECOND CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT'S PARLIAMENTARY BASE HAD EVAPORATED, THE PRESIDENT WOULD NOT HAVE HESITATED TO REDESIGNATE SOARES. THE PRESIDENT'S CURRENT STRATEGY IS FOR NOBRE DA COSTA TO APPROACH THE SOCIALISTS ON VARIOUS MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIOS--MOST NOTABLY FINANCE IN THE HOPE THAT VITOR CONSTANCIO MIGHT STAY ON--AND SECURE A COMMITMENT TO COOPERATE ACTIVELY IN THE FORMATION OF THE NEW CABINET AND POSSIBLY THE CREATION OF A NEW INTER-PARTY AGREEMENT. NOBRE DA COSTA HAS ALREADY INDICATED THAT SOME MEMBERS OF THE FORMER GOVERNMENT MIGHT SERVE IN HIS NEW CABINET. EANES REPORTEDLY BELIEVES THE SOCIALISTS WILL BACK  
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DOWN AND CAUTIOUSLY AGREE TO PARTICIPATE. IF THEY REFUSE, HE BELIEVES PUBLIC OPINION AND EVEN SOME ELEMENTS WITHIN THE PS WOULD CHARGE THE SOCIALISTS WITH PUTTING PARTY INTERESTS ABOVE THE NATIONAL INTEREST; A CRITICISM SOME MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S STAFF BELIEVE WOULD SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE SOCIALIST SUPPORT IN THE EVENT OF EARLY ELECTIONS.

4. COMMENT: MARTIN'S COMMENTS CONFIRM OTHER RECENT REPORTS ON VIEWS FROM THE PRESIDENCY.  
ROWELL

NOTE BY OC/T: DISSEMINATION COORDINATED WITH MR. MCCALLIE, S/S-O.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL PARTIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 11 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** X3  
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**Review Event:**  
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